

Smart Growth in the Central and Montachusett Regions

Douglas Foy, Secretary of Commonwealth Development

West Boylston, October 1st, 2004



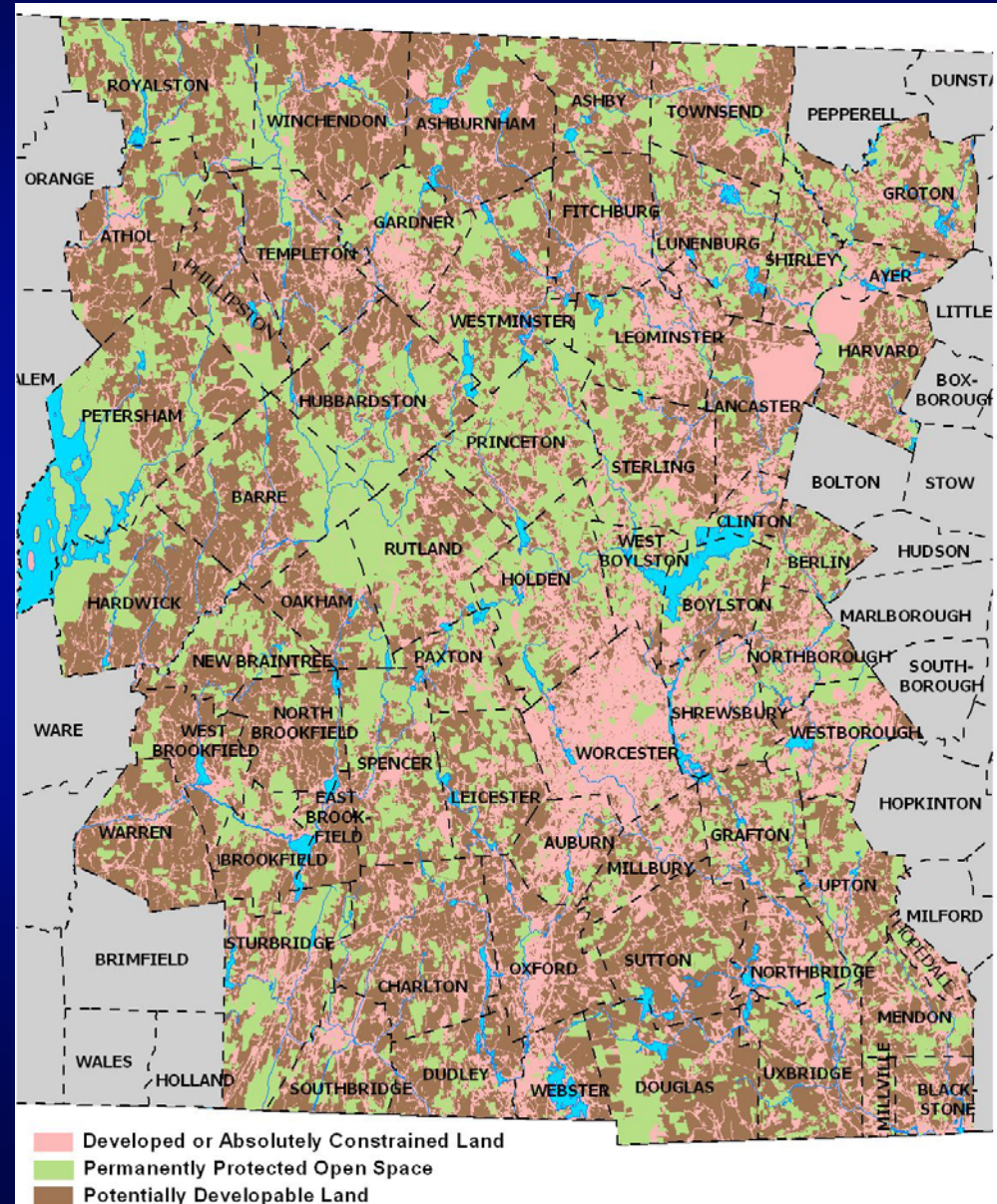
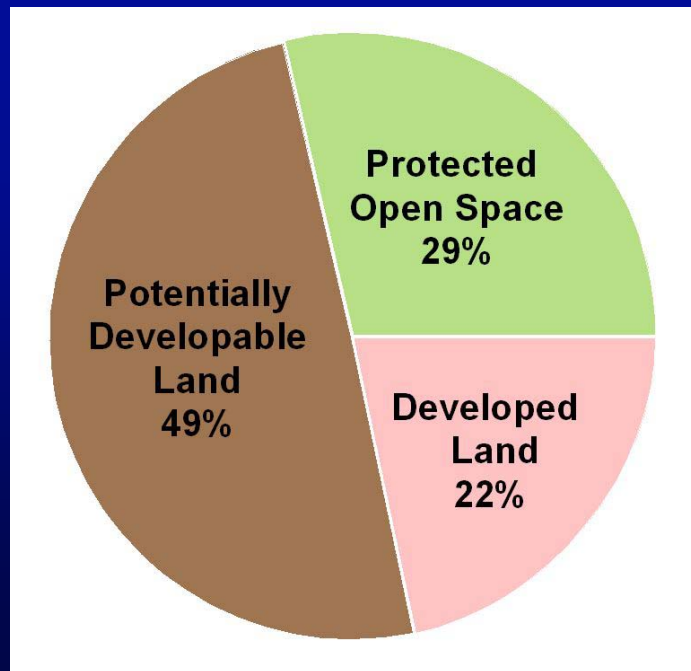
Mitt Romney,
Governor

Kerry Healey,
Lieutenant Governor



Where we've been: regional build-outs

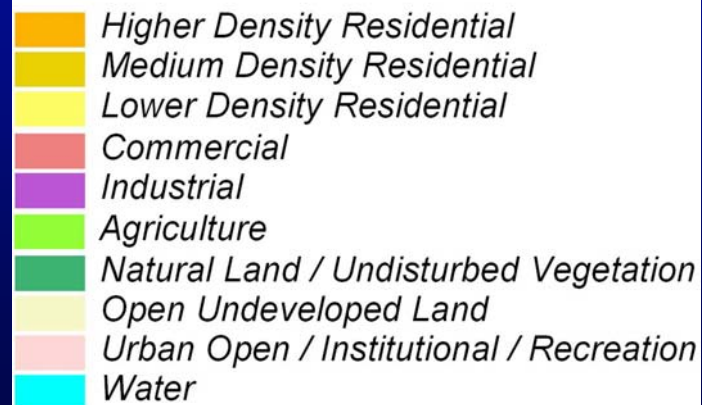
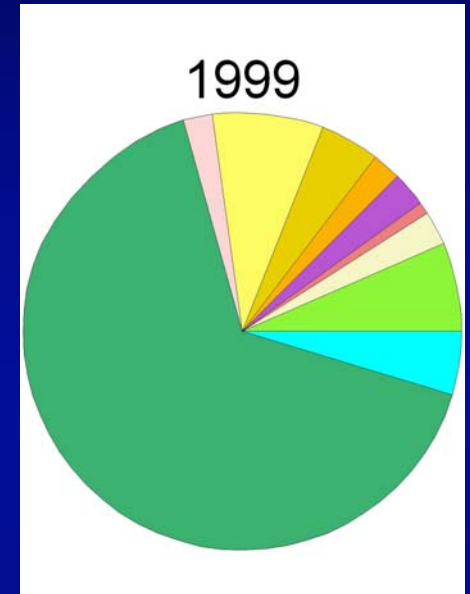
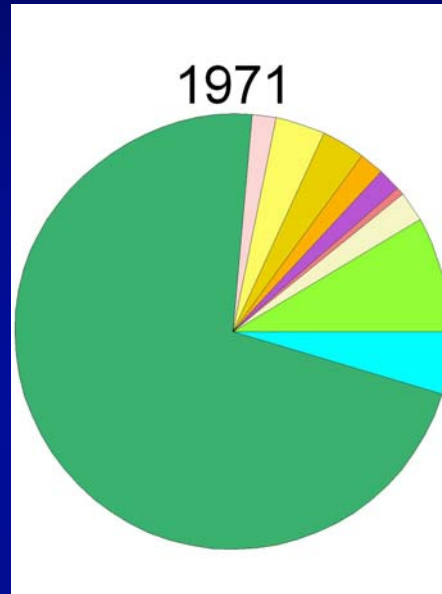
- Nearly half of the land in this region is available for either development or conservation



Over ~30 years, 63,000 acres were developed as low density residential

(% of total land)

- Ag/Forest 80% to 72.5%
- Low density residential (>1/2 acre lots) 3.7% to 8.2%
- High and medium density residential 5% to 6.5%



(Low Density defined as greater than ½ acre lot size)

Where we've been: EO 418 CD Plans

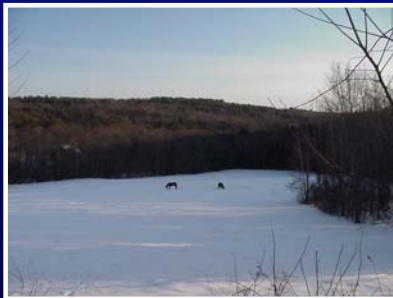
- 46 communities in the region have completed a Community Development plan
 - 37 have achieved housing certification in FY2004
 - \$30,000 of Planning Assistance
- Addressing Four Core Elements:



Transportation



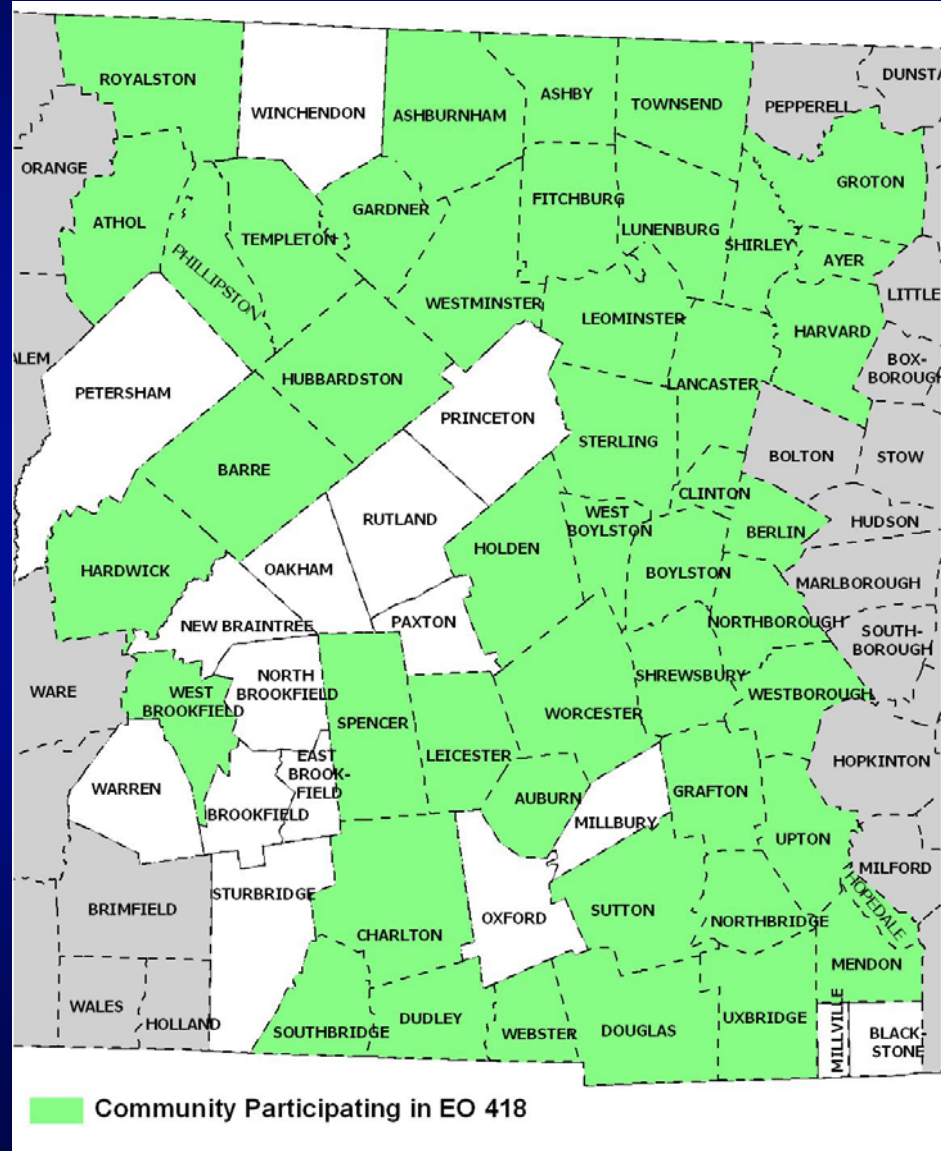
Housing



Open Space



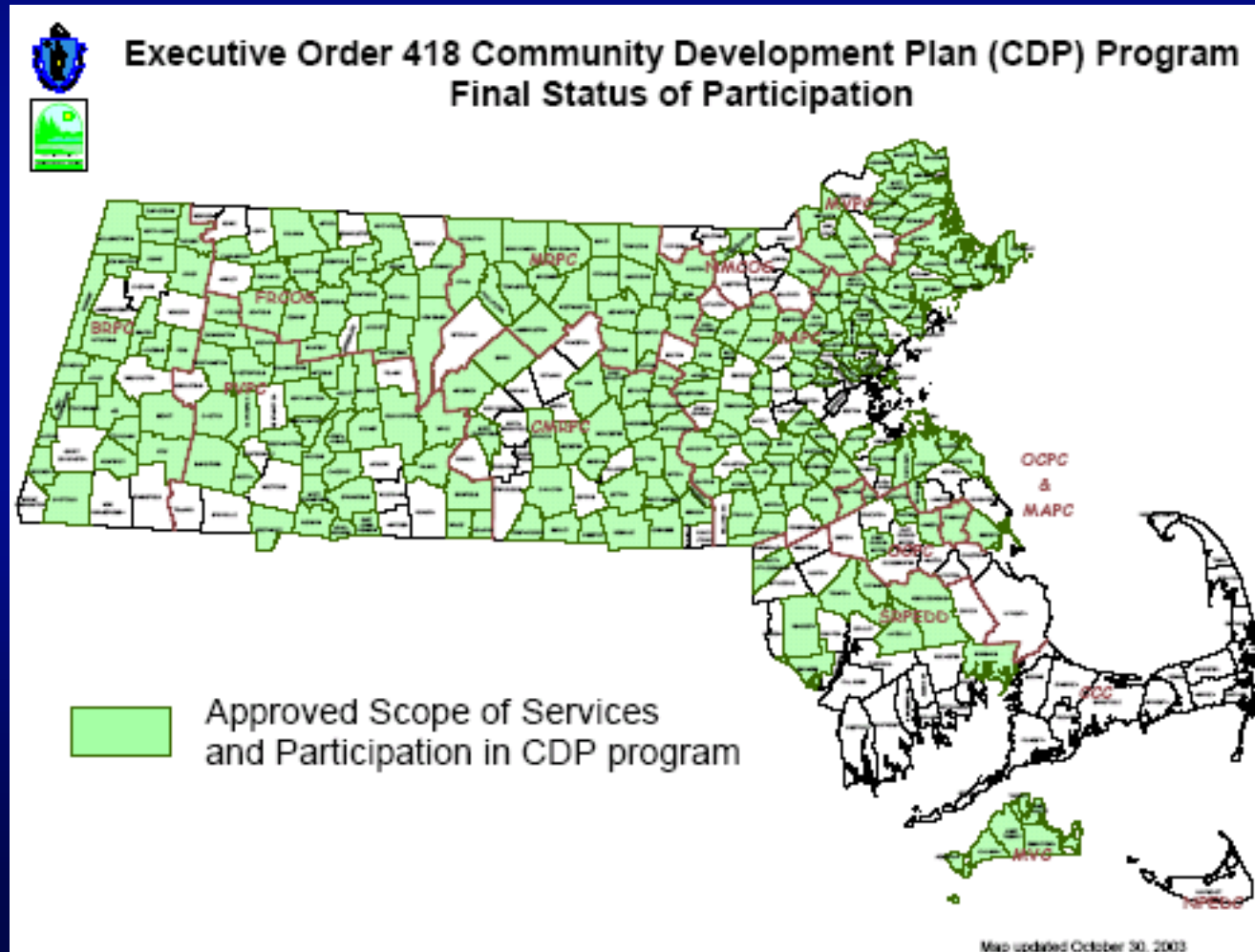
Economic Development



Community Participating in EO 418

Statewide, Executive Order 418 has achieved important goals

- In FY04 **7,388 units** of affordable housing were produced through the EO 418 process
- 224 communities have submitted EO 418 community development plans



Why has Governor Romney elevated Smart Growth through OCD?

- **Housing:** Affordability crisis requires more compact development, recycling of land
- **Fiscal policy:** Use the infrastructure we have!
- **Economic competitiveness :**
 - MA must have great communities to compete
 - Regional Competitiveness Councils want vital community centers
- **Transportation:** Best long term solution to gridlock
- **Environment:** Protect air, water, farms & forests
- **Demographics:** Empty nesters, hipsters and seniors demand walkable, neighborhood living opportunities
- **Health:** Sprawl development increases incidences of chronic health problems like high blood pressure, obesity, arthritis, headaches and breathing difficulties



Smart Growth, we're not just in Portland anymore...(Cambridge)



And Not Just Boston and Cambridge. . .but Lowell



And Haverhill. . .



← (Beacon and Co. TOD)

and Brockton. . .

Photo: Mass. EOE



Photo: Mass. EOE



and Adams, Ashland, Brookline,
Canton, Framingham, Holyoke,
Littleton, Lynn, Malden, Millis,
Natick, Pittsfield, Revere, Woburn,
Newburyport, Northampton,
Worcester, and. . . ?



The Romney Smart Growth Foundation

Sustainable Development Principles

1. Redevelop first
2. Concentrate development
3. Be fair
4. Restore and enhance the environment
5. Conserve natural resources
6. Expand housing opportunities
7. Provide transportation choice
8. Increase job opportunities
9. Foster sustainable businesses
10. Plan regionally

Smart Growth is a critical element of
the Commonwealth's Economic
Growth Strategy

RPA Presentations

The Commonwealth Supports Smart Growth

Recognition



- Governor's Smart Growth Leadership Awards (applications due October 15th)
- Governor's Smart Growth Innovation Awards (applications due December 15th)

Technical Assistance



- Interagency Technical Assistance Teams

The Commonwealth Supports Smart Growth

Planning and Zoning Funding



- Mass Housing Priority Development Fund (\$3M of planning grants)
- Chapter 40R housing incentives (\$3-\$5K per unit for zoning and completion)
- EOEA Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grants

The Commonwealth Supports Smart Growth

Project Funding



- Commonwealth Capital municipal grant process
- Fix-it-first (parks, roads, bridges, housing, transit, drinking water, sewers)
- MassHousing Priority Development Fund (housing)
- Limited, smart infrastructure expansion (transit, bike, pedestrian, streetscapes)

An innovation: Commonwealth Capital

Targeted State Spending

- Projects that are consistent with the OCD sustainable development principles

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Municipal Land Use Policy


- Partnerships with municipalities that take municipal action to advance smart growth

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Smart Growth

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| • PWED | • Self Help Grants | • Off-Street Parking Program |
| • CDAG | • Agricultural Preservation Restrictions | • Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds (SRF) |
| • Transit Node Grants (NEW) | • Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants (EOEA) | • Urban Brownfields Site Assessment Program |
| • Urban Self Help Grants | • Transit Oriented Development Grant Program (NEW) | • Department of Fish and Game Land Acquisition |
| • Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund | | |

Many other critical Smart Growth efforts are underway

- 40 R zoning statute
 - Highway Design Manual revisions
 - Communities first initiatives
 - DEP fast-track permitting
 - Historic preservation tax credit program
 - MBTA property TOD initiative
 - New Brownfields Initiative
- 
- Additional zoning reform is urgent**

Walkable for every generation? Not yet, but...



...Mix Uses...



...Infill Underutilized Space...



...And the Street Becomes a Place For Everyone in Your Family



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